

## MRS. CLEVELAND IS BETROTHED TO WELLS PROFESSOR

President's Widow Will Wed Thomas J. Preston, Whom She Met at Princeton.

WON'T TELL THE DATE.

Second Romance, Like Her First, Started at College in Aurora.

Mrs. Grover Cleveland today personally confirmed the announcement of President Hibben of Princeton that she was to marry Prof. Thomas J. Preston of Wells College, Aurora, N. Y.

"Yes," she said, with a happy smile, "I authorized President Hibben to make that announcement."

But the charming widow of the former President would not say when the wedding would take place nor further discuss the future plans of herself and Prof. Preston. She said that any statement along those lines must come from the man she is to marry.

While the announcement of her engagement was received with interest by the people of the whole United States, to whom Mrs. Cleveland endeared herself as "the White House bride," the deepest interest probably is felt at Princeton, where she has made her home since 1902. No great event in the University since then has taken place without her, and the faculty and students have come to regard her with peculiar affection.

Prof. Preston has the chair of archaeology and the history of arts at Wells College. That institution is Mrs. Cleveland's alma mater. She went there on the advice of Grover Cleveland when he was her guardian. For some time past she has been a trustee. She met Prof. Preston when he, in maturity, was a student at Princeton.

**PRESIDENT HIBBEN'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF BETROTHAL.**

In making the announcement President Hibben said:

"Prof. Preston is fifty years of age. He is a graduate of Princeton and one whom we hold in very high esteem. As a young man he began his university studies at Columbia, which were interrupted by illness. At that time he gave up the idea of completing his education and went into business in which he made a very rapid and notable success, establishing himself at the head of a very prosperous manufacturing company in Newark.

"After securing a substantial fortune and feeling keenly that continued business success could not compensate for his abandoned college career, he determined to attain a long desired end which his earlier years had denied him. Although nearing the age of forty he nevertheless closed his active business career and went abroad to study for two years at the Sorbonne, Paris.

"Returning to America, he came to Princeton for two more years of additional study. On account of the wide range and unusual excellence of his work both in undergraduate and graduate studies, he took at the same commencement not only the degree of Litt. B., but the degree of M. A. as well, a very unique attainment. He was also elected at that time to the Princeton Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

**WON HONORS AT HOME AND ABROAD.**

"Prof. Preston was exceedingly popular and made many friends while at Princeton. He was subsequently appointed Fellow of the American School of Classical Study at Rome, and later won in a competition open to all universities of the United States the Fellowship of the Archaeological Institute of America. After pursuing his studies abroad he returned to Princeton and took his degree of Doctor of Philosophy. He was then called to his present professorship of Wells College."

Mrs. Thomas J. Preston, Prof. Preston's mother-in-law, pink-checked, white-haired, motherly person with twinkling brown eyes—received an Evening World reporter at her South Orange residence today. She was glad the announcement had been made, she said, but she was most anxious to correct a possible impression she had been surprised by the news.

"Some one called me on the telephone last night on behalf of a newspaper and then misinterpreted in type what I had said," she complained. "Of course, I was not at all surprised at the announcement. Haven't I been watching the development of one of the prettiest middle-aged romances that ever existed outside the pages of a novel?"

"Since 1906, when first they met, their love has been blossoming. To begin with, they were an ideal pair, and each with the same high ideals. Mrs. Cleveland was—and is—a perfectly delightful woman, simple, sincere and just the right helpmate for my son. And my son was a MAN. When he was in business in those years after he left Columbia he had every prospect of amassing a fortune. He might have kept on and become a millionaire. But he was an artist, and the lure of wealth meant nothing to him.

**MET MRS. CLEVELAND WHEN AT PRINCETON.**

"Thomas went abroad and studied art. He became not only a painter of recognized ability, but a critic whose words went far. Mrs. Cleveland and my son met in Princeton and they were immediately drawn together by their common tastes. They both were fond of study and art, and I could see the bonds in the weaving, although they apparently could not. But

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## Widow of President Cleveland Who Will Wed College Professor



that is the blindness of the young people.

"When my son became interested in the work at Wells another bond was added, and I felt it would only be a matter of time when they would become engaged. Some time ago Thomas told me he contemplated arranging the announcement of their engagement. It was to have been announced to-day, but they decided to change the date to yesterday, which was my birthday. So naturally I was not at all surprised, though I expected the secret would be kept one day longer."

Mrs. Preston said—her son had asked that she decline to give out his picture.

"But I want you to see him yourself," she cried. "Thomas doesn't want the picture published, but you must see him."

A maid, sent scurrying to an upper floor, returned in a moment with a cabinet photograph.

"There he is!" exclaimed Mrs. Preston, proudly. "Isn't he charming? And he's just as nice as he looks. He has always been a comfort and joy to me and I am happy beyond expression at the wonderful happiness that is his to share with Mrs. Cleveland."

H. H. Preston, the professor's brother, and Mrs. Preston Jones, his sister, were equally pleased by the engagement.

Mrs. Cleveland was born Frances Folson. She was the daughter of Oscar Folson, once Mr. Cleveland's law partner, and was married to President Cleveland in the White House June 2, 1886, when twenty-two years old.

Prior to his death Mr. Folson made Mrs. Cleveland his daughter's guardian, and she and her mother saw much of the rising statesman. The girl had been set an estate estimated at \$50,000, and this increased under the able management of her guardian. When she went to Wells Mr. Cleveland saw her occasionally, but the great difference in the ages of the two forestalled in the minds of even the keenest observers the idea that ward and guardian were in love, and if the reports hadn't the slightest inkling of the true facts she maintained a discreet silence.

Miss Folson was graduated in the spring of 1884, when Mr. Cleveland was Governor of New York.

Almost immediately Miss Folson and her mother sailed for Europe, and with them went a cousin of Miss Folson, Benjamin Folson. The party toured the Continent, and in May, the following year, after Mr. Cleveland had been elected President of the United States, they sailed from Antwerp for New York on the steamer Nordland, arriving May 23. They did not sail under their own names, and even the canny New York reporters hadn't the slightest idea who it was that Daniel S. Lamont, the President's secretary, took off the ship on the revenue cutter at Quarantine.

That night President Cleveland came over from Washington. It was given out that he had come to confer upon an important matter with William C. Whitney, then Secretary of the Navy, and as a matter of fact he did go to Mr. Whitney's home. But there was a much more important conference on that day which could have to do with affairs of state. That night Mrs. and Miss Folson and the President were the guests of Mr. Whitney.

Mrs. and her daughters remained in New York until they went to Washington in a private car. Next day the announcement of the wedding was made and the marriage took place in the White House. The Rev. Dr. Byron Sutherland officiating. Only a few relatives and a

## ZELIG'S SLAYER PLEADS GUILTY TO ESCAPE THE CHAIR

Will Be Sentenced for Murder in the Second Degree and May Get Life.

LOW MENTALITY SAVES.

"Red Phil" Trembles in Fear and Clings to Guard on Leaving Court.

The trial of "Red" Phil Davidson, who shot and killed "Big Jack" Zelig, New York's most dreaded gunman, came to an abrupt termination in Justice Goff's Court today when Davidson entered a plea of guilty to murder in the second degree, which was accepted. Justice Goff will pronounce sentence on next Wednesday.

Davidson, trembling with fear and clinging to the arm of his counsel, faced Justice Goff and entered a plea of not guilty when the trial began. The selection of a jury was begun at once. As soon as the jury was sworn, Attorney James W. Osborne, appointed by the Court to represent Davidson, arose and said:

"I have investigated this case closely and I am sure that, although this man is not legally insane, he is of such a low order of mentality as to be utterly unable to appreciate the gravity of his crime. I believe, Your Honor, that he was unable to premeditate this murder. The mention of the name of Zelig, whom he feared so greatly, throws him into a state of hysteria. I therefore urge the District Attorney and the Court to accept a plea of guilty to murder in the second degree."

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY AGREES TO ACCEPT PLEA.**

District Attorney Whitman, who, with Assistant District Attorney Moss, had examined the witness, replied:

"Your Honor, the People have been unable to connect this man in any way, with any other crime or gang war that has occurred in New York. He had no connection with the murder of Rosenthal or any other man, so far as we are able to show. While he is not legally insane, I believe he is of such a low order of mentality that the best interests of the People will be subserved by accepting this plea. There is no doubt that he had been severely beaten up by this man Zelig, and the People will be unable to disprove his assertion that he was robbed of \$500 by Zelig."

Dr. William Mabon, noted alienist, was sworn. He said that while he had found no evidence of actual insanity, as defined by law, he found Davidson of such a low order of mentality as almost irresponsible.

"In all my career," said Dr. Mabon, "I have never seen a more emotional or hysterical man, but I believe he was capable of forming a resolution, such as a resolution to kill."

Dr. J. B. Gregory of the psychopathic ward of Bellevue Hospital, who had examined Davidson, declared the murderer was so emotional whenever the name of Zelig was mentioned that he shrieked with fear and could not keep his seat.

**JUSTICE OBSERVED PRISONER'S STRANGE ACTIONS.**

Justice Goff accepted the plea. "The interests of justice," he said, "will be subserved by this acceptance. The law does not demand that I have observed this man as he has sat here, and while he may not be insane, I believe society will be helped if we send him to prison."

At Mr. Gregory's request sentence was deferred until Wednesday. In giving his pedigree, Davidson, whose voice trembled with emotion, said he was thirty-six years old, born in Russia and lived at No. 131 Seventh street, Manhattan. He was married, he said, and could read and write English. He had never been naturalized.

The trembling prisoner, hanging closely to the arm of his guard, could hardly stand as he was led back across the Barge of Rights to the Tombs.

The maximum sentence which Justice Goff can impose is life imprisonment, with a commutation to twenty years' imprisonment, in the discretion of the Pardon Board.

**GIRL OF FIFTEEN ENDS HER LIFE WITH CARBOLIC ACID.**

Quarrelled With Parents a Year Ago and Went to Work.

Ellen Bicknell, fifteen years old, an inmate in a Jersey City laundry, committed suicide last night by taking carbolic acid on her way from her work to her boarding house at No. 39 Palisade avenue, Jersey City. A year ago she quarrelled with her parents, who live in Hoboken, and she got work in the laundry and went to live with Mrs. John Both at the Palisade avenue address.

The girl got the acid in a drug store near her boarding house by telling the druggist that it was for Mrs. Both. Outside the door she drank the contents of the bottle. She was dead when an ambulance came.

## FOR LOVE OF WIFE HE CHOOSES RISK OF GOING TO JAIL

Husband at Her Side When Both Are Charged With Abandoning Child.

Loyal to the woman he took to wife in a difficulty in which he could easily have avoided accusation Henry L. Eberhart stood in the Court of General Sessions today and with her entered a plea of not guilty to the charge of abandoning a nameless child, a handsome baby boy a year old. Husband and wife were freed on bonds of \$2,000 each to appear later before a jury.

Eberhart's brother is one of the wealthiest men in Port Jefferson, L. I., where his country home is one of the show places. Eberhart, who is forty-five years old, formerly lived with his brother there, but for the last year has been superintendent of his brother's apartment house at No. 249 West One Hundred and Eleventh street.

On a visit to Port Jefferson last year, Eberhart met the woman whom he later married. She is an unusually pretty woman, twenty years of age. Three weeks before their marriage, on Dec. 24, 1911, she went to Christ Hospital, Jersey City, where her baby was born. Later, when Eberhart wooed and won the girl, she confessed to him two days before their marriage that she had become a mother. She had given the child to her aunt, Mrs. Florence Bickford of Port Jefferson, and Mrs. Bickford in turn had placed it in the Hospital for Deformed and Crippled Children at Garden City.

Eberhart heard the story through. Then he clasped his fiancée in his arms. "Don't worry, little girl," he said. "We will be married just as we had arranged."

Eberhart and his wife occupied an apartment in the big house which he managed for his wealthy brother. Their married life was very happy. But on Oct. 21 the Garden City institution notified Mrs. Bickford that it could not care longer for the boy baby. It was not deformed or crippled; instead it was strong and healthy.

Mrs. Bickford took the child to the Eberharts' apartment. For the sake of appearances Mrs. Eberhart was unwilling to retain her child. The three talked matters over. Then, according to the police, Eberhart and Mrs. Bickford took the baby to the Lenox avenue police station and turned it over to the lieutenant in charge of the desk.

"This baby was abandoned in the doorway in my apartment house," Eberhart said. "We do not know who left it there, and we do not care to keep it."

The boy was turned over to the Gery Society, and agents began a search for the parents. As a result indictments were returned yesterday against Eberhart and his wife, as they were charged with the abandonment of a child.

The couple entered a plea of not guilty. Their attorney said that they would admit, at their trial, the true parentage of the baby, but would declare there was no technical abandonment. They are willing, he said, to pay liberally to have the baby kept in any institution to which it is consigned by the courts.

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## ROOSEVELT EMPLOYS JEROME AND BURNS TO STOP ELECTION FRAUDS

Detectives Will Guard Polls and Attorneys Will Put Law Violators Through.

Col. Roosevelt announced to-day at Oyster Bay that he had retained William Travers Jerome and the Burns Detective Agency to look out for frauds at the polling places on election day. No matter how the election results, he said, he hoped to put any violators of the law behind the bars.

Mr. Burns went to Oyster Bay to-day to take luncheon with Col. Roosevelt and go over with him the plans for election day.

"I told Burns," said Col. Roosevelt, "that I wanted the polls watched and that I wanted any kind of fraud stopped. If there should be any fraud on our side, I want the guilty persons to be prosecuted just as vigorously as any others."

"I want the people to understand that whatever the outcome of the election, we are going to prosecute right up to the limit any persons who are guilty of frauds and put them behind the bars if possible."

"We are not going to have any repetition of the spring primary. In this case we have the law behind us."

Col. Roosevelt said two or three other lawyers would work with Mr. Jerome, but they have not yet been selected.

"Burns and his men will watch for frauds at the polls," the Colonel continued, "and the lawyers will be in active consultation with them from now on. I asked that Mr. Jerome be engaged. I did not care whom he was supporting. I am not concerned about that. My only concern is that the man who does wrong shall be caught. I expect frauds will be attempted, but I want it understood that those who try it will do so at great peril."

Col. Roosevelt would say nothing of the steps that will be taken further than that Burns would have a number of men scattered over the State on Election Day and that in Manhattan special precaution will be taken. He told the detective what would be expected of him and advised that he would leave it to him to work out the details.

Col. Roosevelt leaves late today, for New York to speak in Madison Square Garden to-night. He is keeping secret his movements in New York before his arrival at the Garden, on the advice of his physicians, who told him he must avoid crowds.

"I feel perfectly well," said Col. Roosevelt, this forenoon. "I have too many real cares in the campaign to think about that."

**Margaret Wycherly, actress, fell ill at the first performance of Hayard Vellier's new play, "The Fight," in Providence Monday night, and the first New York performance, scheduled for the Fulton Theatre to-morrow night, has been postponed. Miss Wycherly is suffering with a throat affection which caused her to lose her voice.**

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